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United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT

Date: Sunday, July 09, 2006
From: Michael Harris, OSC

To: David Chung, U.S. EPA
Beverly Kush, U.S. EPA
Sam Borries, ERB 2 Section 2
Afif Marouf, U.S. EPA
Sally Jansen, EPA
Linda Nachowicz, US EPA
Mick Hans, U.S. EPA
Ross Delrosario, ERB Enforcement Support
Tom Krueger, EPA
Craig Thomas, EPA

Subject: Clean-up in Progress
Universal Form Clamp Fire
840 25th Street, Bellwood, IL
Latitude: 41.8772
Longitude: -87.8636

POLREP No.:	2	**Site #:**	
Reporting Period:	6/17/06 to 7/9/06	**D.O. #:**	
Start Date:	6/14/2006	**Response Authority:**	CERCLA/OPA
Mob Date:	6/14/2006	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Completion Date:		**NPL Status:**	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:		**Contract #**	
FPN#		**Reimbursable Account #**	

Site Description

The Universal Form Clamp Fire (Universal) site is located in a primarily industrial/commercial area at 840 S. 25th Avenue in Bellwood, Cook County, Illinois (Figure 1, Documents Section). The site is comprised of approximately 12.74 acres of land and is bordered to the east by 25th Avenue, to the north by Maywood, to the west and south by railroad tracks (Figure 2, Documents Section). Residential homes are located at approximately 500 feet west of the site. The geographic coordinates for the site are latitude 41.8772 north and longitude -87.8636 west.

Universal distributes a variety of petroleum based products to primarily commercial customers. The facility receives, handles, stores, blends, and distributes petroleum products in the form of mineral oil, diesel, No. 2 fuel oil; No. 6 fuel oil, kerosene, mineral spirits, transmission fluid, and motor oil. Universal receives products via tanker trucks. The products are stored in various aboveground storage tanks (ASTs). They are delivered to customers by Universal trucks or by independent contractors. Universal product lines consist of professional forming systems and products, scaffolding and shoring products, construction chemicals, concrete forming products and accessories.

The facility includes a warehouse, a tanker truck loading rack and unloading area, and product storage and blending areas. Petroleum products are stored within the main bulk storage tank farm, the blending and storage areas, and inside the warehouse. Liquid storage at the facility consists of

forty (40) tanks; some of the tanks are used to store non petroleum products (i.e. wax, fatty acid, and acrylic). In addition, the facility stores a varying stock of drums and 300 gallon totes inside the warehouse.

On June 14, 2006, an explosion and subsequent fire broke out at the Universal facility located at 840 south 25th Street in Bellwood, Illinois in the concrete chemical mixing area. The fire began at approximately 9:00 a.m. and was extinguished by the Bellwood Fire Department around 11:30 a.m. Universal employees were transferring material from a 55-gallon drum into a mixing tank. During the transfer, a spill occurred. It appears that an unknown source ignited the vapors from the spill resulting in an explosion. One employee fatality and five injuries were reported, three employees and two fire fighters.

Responders to the scene included the Bellwood Fire Department, the Maywood Fire Department, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB), the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, the Occupational and Safety Health Agency (OSHA), the Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATFE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Universal Contractors. During fire fighting activities, Maywood Fire Department's HazMat Team took the lead on the environmental emergency response including air monitoring. Results from the air monitoring activities indicated that there were no risks to the surrounding community. The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District collected and monitored water samples from the sewers and Addison Creek. According to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, none of the run-off water made it to Addison Creek, but it appears that some water may have migrated to the sanitary canal through the sewers.

On June 14, 2006, the U.S. EPA provided Universal with a Notice of Federal Interest (NFI). U.S. EPA has been conducting PRP oversight since the day of the fire, June 14, 2006.

Current Activities

June 17, 2006 to July 9, 2006

The U.S. EPA OSC Michael Harris conducted PRP oversight. On June 28, 2006, U.S. EPA OSC Craig Thomas verbally issued General Notice to Universal, reminding Universal that on June 14, 2006, the U.S. EPA provided Universal with a Notice of Federal Interest (NFI). Prior to June 30, 2006, U.S. EPA found that Universal had not made sufficient progress. Universal had not hired a contractor to address the environmental issues at the Site and had not provided a work plan to address the cleanup necessary at the Site. In addition, on June 28, U.S. EPA received a letter from Andre Harvey, Chief of the Bellwood Fire Department, outlining his concerns regarding the stability of chemicals stored at the site, and the hazard these chemicals pose to employees at the plant and residents in the surrounding community. U.S. EPA concurred with issues raised in Chief Harvey's letter.

On July 5, 2006, U.S. EPA requested assistance from Weston Solutions Inc. Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) to provide technical advice, written and photo documentation, air monitoring, and oversight. On July 5, 2006, Weston conducted air monitoring with a MultiRAE and a Personal Data Ram (PDR) and conducted a radiation survey with a Micro-R. The Micro-R indicated that readings were at background. The PDR readings were below PELs and the MultiRAE readings showed non-detect for VOCs, CO, LEL, and H2S. WESTON START demobilized the PDR and Micro-R and kept the MultiRae onsite to conduct periodic air monitoring to verify PRP contractor readings. All of the MultiRAE readings have been non-detect and oxygen has been 20.7% to 21%.

The U.S. CSB allowed the facility to reopen, once the effected area was contained. Bellwood Fire Department completed there investigation and requested that a 24/7 fire watch contractor be onsite until the electricity and fire sprinkler system is operational. Universal hired Castle Fire Inc. to conduct 24/7 fire watch. Facility also hired a 24/7 security company to be on site, after it was requested by U.S. EPA OSC Harris.

After the fire was extinguished, Universal Form Clamp hired Poracky and Associates and their sub contractors HazChem Environmental Corporation (HazChem) (clean-up contractors) and Aires (sampling and air monitoring contractors). HazChem were hired as the clean-up contractor to recover the run-off water, containing oils and solvents, generated by the fire fighting activities.

On June 29, 2006, Poracky and Associates and their subcontractors HazChem and Aires completed the "Phase I" portion of the emergency response. The Phase I tasks included:

- Recovery of Run-off water (oil/solvents)
- Blocking storm sewer drains in the effected area inside the building and the outside parking lot.
- Dewatering approximately 60,000 gallons into Baker tanks. The IDW liquid in the Baker tanks were sampled and waste profiles and manifests were generated for disposal. A total of 53,000 gallons has been hauled off-site to a liquid waste facility in McCook, IL.
- General Debris clean-up
- One 30yd3 roll-off box was filled with general debris (i.e. card boards) and PPE. A bulk sample was collected and profiles and manifests were generated for disposal.
- Building containment around the effected area with double poly linear and negative and positive air units.
- Conducting air monitoring

On June 24, 2006, U.S Risk Management (USRM) and U.S. Environmental Services (USES) were hired by Universal as a consultant. USRS collected air and wipe samples in the effected area. The USRM work plan, which includes the July 24, 2006 analytical data, will be in the documents section by the end of the week.

On June 29, 2006, USRS and there clean-up subcontractors were hired by Universal's insurance company to perform a "Phase II" clean-up. In addition, after a continuous air monitoring program was requested by the U.S. EPA OSC Harris, Universal's insurance company hired Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH) to conduct continuous air monitoring with AreaRAEs, MultiRAEs, UltraRAEs (Benzene tubes), and Dragger benzene tubes.

On June 30, 2006 USRM, USES and CTEH arrived on site and started with the Phase II clean-up and air monitoring. The following Phase II tasks have been completed:
- Developing a Work Plan and Health and Safety Plan
- Establishing a decontamination and staging area
- Preparing the work area with lighting
- CTEH set-up eight AreaRAEs. Five were set-up at the outside of the perimeter of the effected area (NW, NE, E, SE, and SW) and three in the effected area (east room, west room, central room). In addition every two hours Benzene readings were taken with an UltraRAE and if benzene was detected, it was verified with benzene dragger tubes. USES Health and Safety Officer also monitored continuously with a MultRAE in the effected. All air monitoring readings have been below OSHA PELs, except at 1330 on July 2, 2006, due to benzene level readings between 6.2 – 7.0 ppm. The source of the readings is possibly coming from unused cardboard boxes in the West Mixing Room. These cardboard boxes were removed and placed in the roll off boxes to reduce the benzene levels in the Hot Zone. All personnel exited the hot zone and donned Level C. The room

was vented and the benzene readings dropped to non-detect within one hour.
• Sampled all tanks in the west mixing room and sampled all tanks (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I & J) outside, on the south side of the building.
• All tanks in the West Mixing Room (P2, O1, O2, Q, R1, R2, R3 and R4) were pumped out except tanks M, T, S and P. Tanks M and T had no liquids inside, and do not need to be pumped out. Tank S will not be pumped out because it contains a base and tank P will not be pumped out since it contains a fatty acid.
• Effected Area (West, East and Central Mixing Room) - All drums, totes and buckets with products were sampled and HAZCAT'ed to determine the correct disposal method of the contents in the containers and were placed outside on poly, labeled and covered with poly. Site security is on-site 24/7. All empty containers and general debris were placed in roll-off boxes.
• Two cinder brick walls in the center room were caved in from the explosion and were unsafe to work around. Shelves containing corrosives, solvents, resins and unknowns were leaning against one of the walls. The wall was securely shored and then demolished, prior to the removal of the drums on the shelf.
• West and East Rooms- Floors, walls and other surfaces (i.e. empty tanks) were pressure washed and decontaminated with "simple green" degreaser. All water generated during the pressure washing was collected into a vacuum truck and then transferred into the Backer tank.
• Started pressure washing and decontaminating the center room.
• All waste that will be disposed of has been sampled. Sample results are pending for liquid, bulk (roll-off boxes) and drums/totes. The wipe sample results from the cinder brick walls have been submitted to USRS. USRS has not yet shared the results with U.S EPA.

On July 7, 2006, OSHA was onsite and gave the Universal contractors the clearance to move the containers that were under investigation, except for the fork lift and pump in the west room and the gallon plastic containers along the outside of the lab's east wall. The Fire Department, OSHA, ATF and CSB completed there investigation and have left the site.

On July 8, 2006, CTEH demobilized from the site. All hazardous containers are out of the building and readings have been real low, mainly non-detections. USES Health and Safety Officer is conducting continues are monitoring with a MultiRAE and USRS is conducting hourly MultiRAE and UltraRAE readings from all of the locations where the AreaRAEs were. All readings have been non-detect.

Planned Removal Actions
Lab packing all the containers in the laboratory and the boiler room. Complete pressure washing and decontaminating the surfaces of the central room and disposing of all the liquid in the two Backer Tanks, the solids in the roll-off boxes, and the drums and totes that area staged outside.

Next Steps
Develop profiles and manifests for disposal and dispose of all containers roll-off boxes and liquid in Backer tanks.

Key Issues
PRP needs to submit analytical data and waste profile and manifests documents to U.S. EPA.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining

Extramural Costs				
PRP- Techinical Contractors	$90,000.00	$90,000.00	$0.00	0.00%
PRP- Cleanup Contractors	$250,000.00	$250,000.00	$0.00	0.00%
RST/START	$6,600.00	$3,500.00	$3,100.00	46.97%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	$346,600.00	$343,500.00	$3,100.00	0.89%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

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